

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Currently amended) Assaying apparatus for collecting and analyzing a liquid sample for an analyte in the liquid sample, the apparatus comprising:

a container having an interior sample chamber with a liquid sample space, said container having a surface defining an opening in communication with said interior sample chamber;

a cap adapted to be placed on said container opening for closing said container opening and sealing said container;

an assay strip disposed in said cap, said assay strip having an assay region disposed in said cap for indicating the presence or absence of an analyte in a liquid sample placed in said liquid sample space of said interior chamber, and said cap including a separator member disposed between said assay strip and said interior sample chamber for separating said liquid sample space from said assay region of said assay strip;

a wick mounted to said cap and extending into said liquid sample space of said interior sample chamber when said cap is placed on said container, said wick being in fluid communication with said assay strip for conducting a portion of the liquid sample from said interior chamber to said assay region of said assay strip; and

an annular bridging wick piece ~~adjacent to and~~ connected between said wick and said assay strip in fluid communication with said wick and said assay strip and in

immediate contact with said assay strip for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay strip.

Claim 16 (Original) The assaying apparatus of Claim 15, further comprising a transparent cover over said assay strip permitting observation of the results of the assay.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Original) The assaying apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said assay strip comprises wicking material for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay region of said assay strip.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended) Assaying apparatus for collecting and analyzing a liquid sample for the presence or absence of a plurality of analytes in the liquid sample, the apparatus comprising:

a container having an interior sample chamber with a liquid sample space, said container having a surface defining an opening in communication with said interior sample chamber;

a cap adapted to be placed on said container opening for closing said container opening and sealing said container;

a plurality of assay strips disposed in said cap, each assay strip having an assay region disposed in said cap for indicating the presence or absence of one of a plurality of analytes in a liquid sample placed in said liquid sample space of said interior chamber, and said cap including a separator member disposed between said assay strips and said

interior sample chamber for separating said liquid sample space from said assay region of said assay strip;

a wick mounted to said cap and extending into said liquid sample space of said interior sample chamber when said cap is placed on said container, said wick being in fluid communication with said assay strip for conducting a portion of the liquid sample from said interior chamber to said assay region of said assay strip; and

an annular bridging wick piece ~~adjacent to and~~ connected between said wick and said assay strips in fluid communication with said wick and said assay strips and in immediate contact with said assay strips for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay strips.

Claim 21 (Original) The assaying apparatus of Claim 20, further comprising a transparent cover over said assay strips permitting observation of the results of the assays.

Claim 22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Original) The assaying apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said assay strips comprise wicking material for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay regions of said assay strips.

Claims 24-31 (Cancelled)